tories of the Four-Power Pact of December 13th, 1921 (the United States, the British Empire, France and Japan), agreed to respect each other's rights in the Pacific and to discuss any controversy between them in a joint conference. The parallel Nine-Power Treaty of February 6th, 1922 (England, the United States, France, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Portugal, China, Japan), pledged the signatories to respect the independence of China, and to afford unfettered opportunity to the young Republic to work out its own salvation. At the same time Japan restored Shantung and England Wei-hai-hei.

It was a statesmanlike scheme, placing the peace of the Far East on broader foundations by attempting to help China through her growing pains, and to soothe the *amour-propre* of a powerful nation by merging the Anglo-Japanese alliance in a larger association. "At any rate you gave it a splendid funeral," remarked a Japanese diplomatist to a British colleague. A difficult corner had been turned at the cost of weakening our position in the Far East; for Japanese sentiment could hardly be expected to remain as Anglophil as it had been for twenty years. The temperature fell still further with the decision to create a naval base at Singapore, which was rightly regarded in Tokio as a token of mistrust. Henceforth she showed scanty consideration to the interests of her old ally.

Of greater interest to the ordinary British citizen was a second achievement of the Washington Conference. The faint-hearted attempt to secure a limitation of armaments at The Hague in 1899 had failed ; and the Tsar, smarting under his defeat in the Far East, made no similar effort at the second Hague Conference in 1907. Four years of a world war, however, wrought an atmospheric change. When the

American Government opened the proceedings with a bold plan for limiting the tonnage of capital ships of the Great Powers, the British Delegation headed by Lord Balfour promptly fell into line. The Five-Power Treaty of February 6th, 1922, declared that Great Britain and the United States should not exceed 525,000 tons ; Japan accepted a limit of 315,000, while France and Italy paired at 175,000. The consent of Japan was secured be a veto on fortification of naval bases within striking distance of her shores. Four English battleships about to be built were cancelled, and many ships were scrapped. The agreement, which was to run till the end of 1936, was memorable for two reasons. For the first time a limitation of armaments had been